

Ward 4/7 NPA Meeting
Wednesday, November 28, 2018
130 Gosse Court, Miller Center

Start Time: 7:00 PM

End Time: 9:00 PM

Draft: Minutes

Steering Committee Members Present:

Jim Holway, Loaldo Dr., 865-44711238 Linda Deliduka, Village Grn. 864-5114
Jeff Clark, Cumberland Rd., 734-0993 Chris Trombly, Sandy Ln., 238-1158
Eric Corbman, Northshore Dr., 399-2602
David Driscoll, Killarney Dr., 598-1234

Introductions and Announcements

- Kristin Merriman-Shapiro: Beginning process to resolve Moran site. Upcoming Parks, Arts, and Culture meeting at Contois Auditorium on January 30th at 6 PM.
- Kendra Sours: Running for School Board for the North End. Has lived in New North End for 18 years.
- Copies of school budget presentation available after meeting
- Rock Point School has been working with Young Writer's Project and producing plays, which will be shown on Feb 21st at 6:30 at RPS. Sometime at the end of March, there will be an April Brunch run with sugar shack tours.
- Kienan Christianson: Candidate for City Council for the North District. Has been door-knocking for the weeks. Campaign is focused on New North End. Attorney in Burlington, former law clerk. Will be at the Bagel Shop at 8:30 on Saturday to talk to people.

Steering Committee Nominations

- Jeff Comstock: Has been a regular at the NPAs, interested in becoming more involved.

Unanimously appointed to Steering Committee

NPA Resolution Regarding North Ave Safety

- Pedestrian was struck and killed near Poirier Place recently
- Plan to install lighted ("high visibility") crosswalks on North Ave was made last year, nothing really happened

- Poirier Place crosswalk was scheduled to get a high visibility crosswalk fall of 2018
- Resolution would signal to city that change is needed regarding pedestrian safety, safe traveling speeds for all road users
- Resolution requests that high visibility crosswalks be installed in five identified crossings before end of spring 2019, progress reports from city/DPW be made available to Wards 4 + 7 residents
- Steering committee drafted language for it, but whole NPA should agree

Resolution is moved forward

Keep the Park Green

- Last Wednesday, 3,300 signatures were turned into the City Clerk, who stopped counting when 1,999 mark (5% of eligible Burlington voters) was reached
- Citizen advisory question process is valuable part of local democracy, provides advice to City Council from the people
- The Mayor has stated putting question on ballot will delay project 6-8 weeks, push process into the next year
- City has lacked transparency regarding funding: once stated that Park would be funded through TIF funding, now stating there will be multiple sources

School Budget

- Budget was adopted last Monday
- Budget was developed starting with Superintendent Obeng meeting with stakeholders, leadership groups (principals, head of Student Services) around the city, putting together priorities for different schools.
- School Board then reviewed the priorities that were put forth.
- School Board discussed preschool classes whose funding had run out, early education in general, hiring para-educators, special education support
- Property value was 80% of market value, has worsened a bit this year (77% of market value)
- \$88 million is how much School Board wants to spend this year, 4.3% increase from last year
- Tax rate that will appear on tax bills in July will depend on equalized pupil number (which is yet to be determined). Ward priority is to keep this increase around 4%
- Recognition that school funding model in Vermont is in need of some reform
- Schools provide more and more social services as they try to meet diverse needs, they need a funding model that reflects their changing role

Elected Officials

-Bob Hooper, House Representative Chittenden 6-1

- Drew House Government Operations Committee, which oversees a wide variety of things from gun reform to naming holidays

- Proclamation to help federal government employees by making them eligible for unemployment during shutdown

-Jean O'Sullivan, House Representative Chittenden 6-2:

- Vice Chair of House Commerce

- Giant hole in national/state need for construction workers. No adequate system exists for workforce development/job skill training in Vermont. Will be focusing on adult technical education

- Emergency Board has additional 40 million, which means there will be money for state retirement fund, which has been dragging on state economy

-Carol Ode, House Representative Chittenden 6-1:

- House Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife Committee

- Deals with cleaning up Lake Champlain, climate change issues, preservation of Vermont's forests and open spaces, and more

- Teamwork has been emphasized by Governor this session

- Committees have been looking at the departments of state government they will be working with

-Ali Dieng, City Council Ward 7:

- Hal Colston's appointment to Winooski House Seat by Gov. Scott

- Having gathering with constituents in New North End with Stephanie Yoo about education funding in the state.